

In 18 years' shooting in India this is the first albino snipe I have ever seen. My shikari had never seen one before in his life. I should be interested to learn of similar instances, and as to the degree of their frequency.

20, ALIPORE ROAD,
CALCUTTA.

H. M. MOLESWORTH

[Three other cases of albino snipe have been recorded in past volumes of this journal. The *Journal* also records albinism in such diverse animals in India as the following:—

M A M M A L S.—Tiger, elephant, blackbuck, kakar, hog-deer, gazelle, chital, sambar, wild boar, palm squirrel.

B I R D S.—House sparrow, hoope, crow, shoveller, comb duck, Malay spotted dove, Nilgiri pipit, chukor, red-vented bulbul and rufous-backed shrike.

Since going to press we have received through H.H. the Maharaja a pure albino Black Partridge (*Francolinus francolinus*) recently shot in Kutch.—EDS.]

15. EXTENSION OF BREEDING RANGE OF THE STILT (*HIMANTOPUS H. HIMANTOPUS*), AND SOME NOTES ON ITS HABITS AND PLUMAGES

In our paper on the Birds of Bombay and Salsette in 1939 (*J.B.N.H.S.* 40: 639) we recorded the Stilt as 'Not uncommon but patchily distributed', with all our records between 29th September and 6th November only. We also tentatively listed it as 'a local migrant'.

In April and May 1944 we saw many birds in Mahim Creek and I have a note for this area dated 9th June 1947:—

'Flock of 40 to 50 birds has been here for over a month—appear restive—stretching wings over back and bickering, but not making up their minds to go.'

With the sustained restriction on the use of firearms within city limits during the last few years, stilts together with many other waders such as black-tailed godwits, avocets, sandpipers and large numbers of duck have frequented this area, and despite the stench an interesting hour may be spent here watching a galaxy of water birds.

On 4th June 1950, the water level at Powai Lake (which is a few miles north) had dropped very low creating several new islands, and here one or more stilts uttering the alarm call of 'wik-wik-wik' very loudly when approached, were noted. On the 11th June only a single pair was left and one bird was seen squatting five yards from the shore on a bare island about 25 yards long and 15 yards wide. A crocodile lying on the water's edge, five yards away, did not appear to worry it very much. A couple of days later I got to the islet with a boat and a stilt was put off 4 eggs arranged plover-like (small ends pointing inwards) on a thin layer of small pebbles. On the 23rd June two young in down were running about the island while one egg on the point of hatching was still in the nest.

The young swam well and one was seen to return after a short trip on the lake. A few days later the birds had shifted to a larger